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HOUSE MEMORIAL 18

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Miguel P. Garcia

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING A STUDY OF HOMELESSNESS IN NEW MEXICO THAT FOCUSES
ON THE PROBLEMS IN THE BARELAS NEIGHBORHOOD OF ALBUQUERQUE.**

**WHEREAS, more than three thousand of the state's homeless
population of eight thousand persons live on Albuquerque's
streets; and**

**WHEREAS, more than double the number of organizations
serving the homeless population exists in Albuquerque as in
the next city with a large population of homeless persons; and**

**WHEREAS, most of Albuquerque's service providers for the
homeless population are clustered in the center of town in the
Barelas neighborhood; and**

**WHEREAS, the homeless population is drawn to live in
Barelas as transportation connections, social services,
medical supplies, groceries and a hospital are close by; and**

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1 WHEREAS, the density of the homeless population in
2 Barelás is becoming a source of tension among neighborhood
3 residents; and

4 WHEREAS, the traditional comraderie, safety, quietude and
5 happiness of the Barelás neighborhood are disappearing as city
6 services and homeless persons who need those services become
7 increasingly centralized in the area;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human
10 services department be requested to establish a new working
11 group focused entirely on homelessness, with a high priority
12 given to focus on the problems of the Barelás community as an
13 example of a pattern occurring throughout New Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group compile data
15 on the needs of homeless persons in New Mexico, documenting at
16 a minimum where the homeless persons in the Barelás
17 neighborhood originated; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group compile data
19 and present it in the form of a report to the legislative
20 health and human services committee before December 1, 2007,
21 with special emphasis on the needs of the homeless population
22 of the area and recommendations for ways to keep homeless
23 people in their home towns by providing better services in
24 smaller cities and providing better housing and employment
25 options in urban areas where homeless persons are drawn by

1 services; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the heads of all Albuquerque area homelessness
4 agencies, to the secretary of health and to the secretary of
5 human services.

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